



Me with baby Samuel at Welcome Home Orphanage (Jinja, Uganda)

CHWAZI I AM CHOSEN

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GETTING READY: KNOWING HE CALLED YOU

KARISSA MILLER

A Calling and a Purpose

I've been promising to share about my very first missions experience in Jinja, Uganda so that is what this newsletter is about. Revelation 12:11 says that we overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony. My time in Uganda was only a month long but it had such a huge impact on me that my testimony would be nothing without it.

The Journey

I already mentioned in my first newsletter about how God called me to be a missionary but it was that very same night that I was told to go to Africa. After God told me I was going to be a missionary I had a vision of kids in Africa. The entire journey to get there was incredible. Without going into much detail it included divine appointments, visions, and supernatural provision. And just six short months after God told me to go to Africa I landed in Uganda.

Miracles

When I look back on that time of my life God's goodness never ceases to amaze me. Seriously, if you had known me back then you wouldn't even recognize me. I had only recently rededicated my life to God but I was still struggling with bitterness and anger. I literally hated people. That is why I find it so amazing that even while I was at my worst God still decided to use me.

The miracles weren't only in how I got there but they continued once I reached Uganda. In fact I had only been there for one day when another missionary came to me and told me that God had spoken to her about me the night before. She told me that God was going to do something miraculous in my life while I was there (I had never even met this woman before!).

I spent the entire trip wondering what it was going to be. I totally expected to see limbs grow out or see somebody raised from the dead. But by the end of the trip I was a bit disappointed. Although I did get to pray for a few people with malaria and saw them get healed.

I didn't see an outward miracle, instead the miracle was exactly like she predicted, in my own life. It wasn't until a month after she prophesied this to me (my last day of the trip) that I even realized what that miracle had been. My joy had been restored. It was just a start in the restoration process, a process I am still currently going through, but in that month my wall of bitterness and anger cracked. It happened slowly while watching children who literally had nothing to call their own (not even their clothes) still able to love and have joy. And just a bit of their joy broke through the cracks in my wall and reached my heart. That was my miracle.



Baby Oscar from Welcome Home Orphanage (Jinja, Uganda)

Purpose One by One

I also found purpose while I was there. When the owner of the orphanage found out that I was going to school to work with children with disabilities she put me in charge of one of the babies named Oscar. He was born with hydrocephaly (water on the brain). When I got there he was five years old but he looked like he was three. He had no use of his right arm or leg and could not walk or

even stand. He got around by dragging himself around with his one good leg.

It was difficult to work with him, not just because the therapy I did was painful (which it was) but because the employees of the orphanage thought that what I was doing was cruel. Over there they have the mindset that you should not interfere with a child's development in any way. It's very similar to a 'survival of the fittest' mentality. In fact it's this very reasoning that leads many who give birth to a child with a disability to throw them away or leave them for dead, it's the lucky ones that end up in an orphanage.

But by the end of the month I had changed those employee's minds. The last week I was there Oscar was able to pull himself up to a standing position and was using his right hand to give high-five's. Once I left they continued to do the therapy I had taught them and three months later I was told that Oscar had taken his first steps. It may be just one child but I had an impact on his life.

Reaching a Community

Besides working at the orphanage I also got to go out to a couple of the surrounding villages while I was there. That was one of the most eye-opening experiences I have ever had. My family has never been poor but we've never had a lot either but going to the villages and seeing some of the huts that families lived in completely shocked me. I saw families of five or more living in a hut the size of a small bathroom here in America. The entire village had one bathroom which was literally just a hole in the ground. For the first time in my life I saw what true poverty looked like.

I didn't just go to sight-see though. I also got the amazing privilege to help run a medical clinic in the village of Lwombogo and they desperately needed it. Almost the entire village had worms from drinking polluted water, many had malaria and so many other things. Not only did we have the medical clinic but I actually got to help organize a bi-weekly medical clinic. We talked to a couple doctors and got each to agree to go once a month and provide their time and expertise if we provided the team and supplies. It was exciting to help create a program that I knew would continue on long after I was gone.

But we didn't just serve their physical needs we also got to serve them spiritually as well.



We got to hold a two-night crusade in two of the local villages (for a total of four nights), Lwombogo and Kugoma Gate. We had amazing worship, powerful teachings, as well as a movie (a special treat since there is no electricity in the villages). Hundreds of people came from all of the surrounding villages. And at the end of each night we had an altar call and over a hundred people received salvation each night.

Money, Money, Money

Despite so many delays the time for my departure is almost here but I still have more money to raise!

50%

Everybody has been amazing jumping on board and sending in gifts. I now have enough in monthly pledges to go this January. So there will be no more delays! But although I have enough to go that money only covers room and board. The other 50% still needed covers health insurance, emergency insurance, plane tickets back and forth, as well as ministry costs.

If you know of anybody who would love to make an impact in another country bringing hope and joy then please feel free to share this newsletter with them.

You can join my support team by going to gototherock.com/donate and selecting recurring donation and then monthly. Under missions enter the amount you would like to

donate and at the bottom **enter my name** in the message box (so that they know the money is for me and not some other missionary). You should also check out my blog at chwazi.wordpress.com (you can also donate there using the same instructions). If you have any questions or prayer requests or would just like to connect feel free to email me at karissamiller21@gmail.com.

Prayer

Please continue to pray for my team and for the Caribbean as we get closer to our launch date. God has an amazing plan for us and them but so does the devil and the only way to win this fight is on our knees. I thank you all for your encouragement and continued prayers and have included some specific prayer requests below.

- Pray for Haiti and all of those who were so severely impacted by Hurricane Matthew.
- Pray for health for those in the disease infected areas remembering Psalm 91.
- Also pray for the Bookers who are in Saint Lucia right now looking for our new base of operations. Pray that God would provide the perfect home for the ministry that He has planned for us.
- Also if you could pray for our finances. That we would have more than enough for the ministry as well as our own needs.

I want to thank you so much for all that you do. If there is anything I could ever pray for you about please don't hesitate to email me (karissamiller21@gmail.com) we are called to share in each other's burdens so please don't hesitate.